

ART. XXXIII.—*Supplement to Ziemssen's Cyclopædia of the Practice of Medicine.* Edited by GEORGE L. PEABODY, M.D., Instructor in Pathology and Practice of Medicine, College of Physicians and Surgeons, N. Y. 8vo. pp. 844. New York: William Wood & Co., 1881.

THE publication in Germany of a second edition of Ziemssen's Cyclopædia and the lapse of time since the appearance of the earlier volumes of the American translation of the work, have rendered necessary in the opinion of the publishers of the latter, the issuing of a supplemental volume in order "to remove from it the few traces of time that the last few years have produced." The preparation of this volume for the press has been committed to Dr. Peabody, who has been ably assisted in his work by a large corps of collaborators, twenty-eight in number. In the list of these will be found the names of several physicians who have distinguished themselves in different departments of medicine, as for instance, Drs. J. Lewis Smith, Robert E. Weir, and George M. Lefferts, of New York; Drs. Reginald H. Fitz, James J. Putnam, and Edward S. Wood, of Boston; Dr. J. Solis-Cohen, of Philadelphia, and Drs. James Nevins Hyde and Henry M. Lyman, of Chicago. In particularizing these gentlemen it is not our wish to be understood as thinking that their contributions are the only valuable ones or even that they are of superior excellence to those of some we have not mentioned by name.

It is difficult within the limits of a brief notice, such as the present, to give such a conception of the scope of the work as will enable our readers to form any idea of its value. "It has been the aim of the writers to give a concise account of the progress made in the various departments of medicine during the time that has elapsed since the several volumes of the Cyclopædia were published, each of the subjects treated being brought up to the date of the present volume." So that the volume, independent of its connection with the Cyclopædia, has a value in that it contains in a convenient form for reference, together with a full bibliography, an epitome of the recent advances in medical science. It would be impossible without overrunning the space at our command to allude to the subjects of the various contributors even by name. We shall therefore not attempt to criticize them in detail. Among the most important of them is one by Dr. Frederick C. Shattuck, of Boston, on *Diseases of the Lungs*. In the section on croupous pneumonia, this writer fully considers the theory that pneumonia is an infectious disease, which was advocated by Jürgensen in the article on this disease in the fifth volume of the Cyclopædia, and which is also held by Dr. Flint, but does not adopt it as applicable to all cases, since the conclusions he reaches he expresses as follows: "Pneumonia is often simply an inflammatory disease, but may depend on various miasmatic influences, and then presents decided variations in its course and symptoms." In the course of his paper he refers to several epidemics of pneumonia of a typhoid character, which evidently originated in defective hygienic conditions. One of these occurred among the prisoners in the jail at Frankfort, Kentucky, and is reported by Dr. Rodman in the number of this Journal for January, 1876. The occurrence of pneumonia cannot always be explained in this way, and we are not therefore prepared to adopt unqualifiedly the views on

this subject of Drs. Jürgensen and Flint. Dr. Shattuck also discusses at some length the *Climatic Treatment of Phthisis*, and in the course of his remarks takes occasion to call attention to the importance in recommending any particular health resort of paying some attention to the personal peculiarities and preferences of the patient. This is a subject which is often overlooked by the physician to the disadvantage of the patient. It is certainly one which is not alluded to by many writers on phthisis, who recommend the Riviera or Davos, according to their individual preferences.

The arrangement as to bibliography, captions, paragraphs, etc., in this volume are essentially the same as in the original work. J. H. H.

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ART. XXXIV.—*Comparative Embryology*. A Treatise by FRANCIS M. BALFOUR, LL.D., F.R.S., Fellow and Lecturer of Trinity College, Cambridge. In two volumes. 8vo. pp. xi. 492, xxii., xi. 655, xxii. London: Macmillan & Co., 1881.

THE vigour with which the study of Embryology has been pursued during the last few years, has led to the introduction of many conflicting statements and incomplete observations; to attempt to arrange these in anything like an orderly or systematic exposition has been no easy task. Mr. Balfour, however, who is well known as one of the authors of the best manual on Embryology with which we are acquainted, and of an elaborate monograph on the Elasmobranch fishes, as well as of numerous other valuable papers, has succeeded in bringing order out of chaos to a degree that is very satisfactory.

Vol. I., with the exception of three admirable chapters on the Ovum and Spermatozoon, the Maturation and Impregnation of the Ovum, and the Segmentation of the Ovum, is limited to a description of the development of the Invertebrata. In the second volume, the first eleven chapters deal with the developmental history of the chordata. These are followed by three comparative chapters completing the section of the work devoted to Systematic Embryology. The remainder of the treatise, from chapter XIV. onwards, is devoted to Organogeny, the history of the development of the organs of the chordata being treated, as the state of our knowledge necessitates, with much greater detail than that of the other groups of metazoa.

With the exception of a small, but useful, book by Packard on Comparative Embryology, Balfour's treatise is the sole work on this subject with which we are acquainted: in it the student will find, clearly arranged, all the results of the most modern research, enriched by Mr. Balfour's own valuable work, and subjected to his critical analysis. R. M. S.